[28th January 1956

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) & (b) There is no such proposal, Sir. But the question of appointing a nucleus staff of Geologists by this Government to conduct preliminary surveys and collect relevant data in special cases is being examined.

* 3053 Q.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN (on behalf of Sri M. Kalyanasundaram) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(a) whether the State Government are in possession of the records concerning the geological surveys held in Pudukkottai division before merger;

(b) if so, the deposits that are reported to be available in this area; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to tap any of them in the near future?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Deposits of black magnetic ore, magnetite, hæmatite or specular iron ore, red and yellow ochre, limestone, yellow and blue earth are reported to be available in this area.

(c) No application for Prospecting Licence or Mining Lease in this area has so far been received.

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Sir, are the Government taking any steps to press these raw materials into industries?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : Other areas also are being surveyed, and when the full survey report is available, the Government will examine how they can use the minerals that are available.

Education of Harijan students

* 3054 Q.—SRI E. T. KUNHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government of India have agreed to meet all expenses in connection with the education of all Harijan students in the State; and

(b) if so, how the State Government propose to utilize the allocations made in the budget for the year 1955–56 for expenditure on the education of Harijans?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN : (a) No, Sir. The Government of India have promised to grant scholarships to all students belonging to scheduled castes and scheduled tribes reading in post-matriculation classes, if they satisfy the rules and regulations governing the grant of Central Government scholarships.

(b) The question will be examined soon after the scholarships are sanctioned by the Government of India and the anticipated savings in the funds provided by this State for the scholarships are known.